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Message Text

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62
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 /080 W
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R 261822Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8273

UNCLAS LONDON 02516

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, UK
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NATIONAL STRIKE OF FLEET STREET
JOURNALISTS ON EVE OF THE ELECTION

1. THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR STRIKE OF JOURNALISTS ON THE EVE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION WAS ENHANCED BY A 24-HOUR STRIKE BEGINNING AT 12 NOON TODAY, WHICH WAS CALLED BY THE DAILY TELEGRAPH JOURNALISTS, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS (NUJ). RELATED LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES ON OTHER NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS DURING THE PAST WEEK HAVE ALREADY RESULTED IN LARGE REDUCTIONS IN OUTPUT.

2. THE DISPUTE STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT THE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (WHICH NEGOTIATES FOR THE NATIONAL DAILY AND SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS AND FOR LONDON EVENING NEWSPAPERS, EMPLOYING ABOUT 3,000 JOURNALISTS) HAS REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE NUJ UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION -- FROM FRIDAY, MARCH 1. THE NUJ IS ALSO ANGERED BY THE FACT THAT THE NPA HAS CALLED ON ITS MEMBER NEWSPAPERS NOT TO NEGOTIATE LOCAL AGREEMENTS -- WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THE NPA ROLE AS GROUP NEGOTI-ATOR. THE NPA ALSO, OF COURSE, WISHES TO AVOID ANY IMPEDIMENT TO COVERAGE OF THE ELECTION BY ITS MEMBER PAPERS.
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3. THE CURRENT AGREEMENT DOES NOT RUN OUT UNTIL JULY 1ST, BUT THE JOURNALISTS ARE SEEKING AN AGREEMENT UNDER STAGE THREE NOW TO RUN FROM JULY 1ST -- BECAUSE THEY FEAR TOUGHER PAY RESTRICTIONS MAY BE IMPOSED AFTER THE ELECTIONS. THE STRIKE BY THE TELEGRAPH JOURNALISTS TODAY IS AN EFFORT TO GET THEIR OWN MANAGEMENT TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON A PAY RAISE IMMEDIATELY. OTHER NEWS-PAPER LOCAL UNION BRANCHES (CHAPELS) ARE CONSIDERING SIMILAR ACTION TODAY, INCLUDING THOSE ON THE DAILY EXPRESS AND EVENING STANDARD. THE FINANCIAL TIMES CHAPEL HAS ALREADY VOTED TO TAKE STRIKE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, IN SUPPORT OF ITS PAY DEMANDS.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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